

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.**

In the Matter of)	
)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Federal-State Joint Board on)	
Universal Service)	
)	
Petition of Virginia Cellular LLC)	
For Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications)	
Carrier in the State of Virginia)	

**Motion for Extension of Time
Of NTELOS Inc.**

NTELOS Inc. (“NTELOS”) pursuant to Commission Rule 1.46, hereby files this request for an extension of time to file comments and reply comments in the above referenced proceeding. NTELOS is the parent company of two rural ILECs in Virginia and also has wireless, CLEC, and Internet operations in Virginia and West Virginia.

In a May 15, 2002 Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau set the pleading cycle on Virginia Cellular’s Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (“ETC”) in Virginia. (See Public Notice of Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comment on Virginia Cellular LLC Petition for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier in the State of Virginia, Pleading Cycle Established, DA 02-1152, May 15, 2002.) Comments are now due on May 24, 2002 and Reply Comments on May 31, 2002. For the reasons set forth below, NTELOS believes that good cause exists for an extension of these dates. Specifically, NTELOS

requests that the Comment date be set for June 7, 2002 and Reply Comments on June 21, 2002.

Discussion

In addition to the service areas of Verizon and Sprint, Virginia Cellular seeks ETC designation in the service areas of six rural telephone companies in Virginia. In three of those six, Virginia Cellular does not intend to serve the entire area, and seeks to define a portion of each rural company's service area for purposes of its ETC designation. The designation of additional Eligible Telecommunication Carriers in the service areas of rural telephone companies raises different issues than designations in non-rural telephone company areas.

As NTELOS and the Virginia Telecommunications Industry Association ("VTIA") stated in their respective comments before the Virginia Corporation Commission, the Virginia Cellular petition raises important issues for these rural telephone companies. This is particularly true at a time when the entire Universal Service funding process is being examined by the FCC and many state commissions. Given the importance of the issues presented, nine days is simply not enough time for these small companies to formulate thorough comments on the Virginia Cellular petition. Indeed, while NTELOS checks the FCC's Daily Digest periodically (but not daily), many of the smaller companies were completely unaware of the Public Notice. Because there is no requirement that Virginia Cellular serve its petition on the affected companies, the comment period must be set so that it ensures these companies sufficient time to present their views to the Commission. Nine days does not allow that to happen.

When the Virginia Cellular petition was before the Virginia State Corporation Commission, NTELOS filed separate comments, but other small companies relied on the VTIA to present their concerns. The VTIA's annual meeting will take place May 29-31, 2002. NTELOS believes it makes sense to set the Comment deadline for a week after that meeting. At that time, the companies will know whether VTIA intends to participate in the FCC proceeding or whether individual companies will need to file comments if they wish their views to be represented.

Conclusion

On the basis of the foregoing, NTELOS respectfully requests that the FCC grant an extension of the Comment deadline to June 7, 2002 and an extension of the Reply Comment deadline to June 21, 2002.

Respectfully Submitted,

NTELOS Inc.

/s/ Mary McDermott
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Filed: May 21, 2002

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME OF NTELOS INC. was sent via U.S. Mail to the following persons on this 21st day of May, 2002:

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